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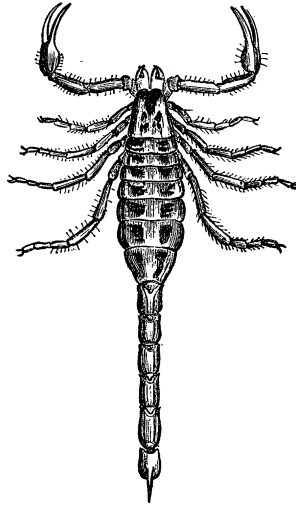
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double purpose of smoothing the roughness and perfectly cleansing the outside, and of wearing off enough weight of shell by *trituration* to save a dollar freight on the railway carriage to Paris, of a *panier* containing a thousand.

SCORPION OF TEXAS.

BY G. LINCUM, M. D.

THE scorpions of Middle Texas, so far as I have investigated the subject, do not extend beyond a single species. There may be others, but I have not observed them. The species we have is viviparous, carrying its young, eight in number, on its back, until they are three-fourths of an inch in length. When first seen, clinging on the back of the mother scorpion, they are so small that it requires a microscope to examine them satisfactorily. They are white, and look as if they were very tender. They cling tenaciously, and when by violence they are separated from the mother, she shows manifest signs of distress, running about till she comes in contact with the lost ones, when they immediately climb up and cling again closer than before. At this early period, they seem already to be well versed in scorpion tactics, wielding their nimble tail, and its recurved weapon, with dexterity and swiftness.



Scorpions pass the winter in close quarters, and gen-

erally in a torpid state. They are seen early in warm weather coming out at nights, and sometimes during warm damp periods in winter. They are altogether nocturnal in their habits, and are carnivorous, subsisting on insects of various kinds, and even small lizards. As a speciality, they prey largely on crickets. They dwell under old logs, rocks, in old stumps, under the bark of dead trees, under old fences, between the shingles on house-tops, and particularly about the jambs and hearths of fire-places. In temper they are hasty, and will employ their weapons on slight occasions. The pain occasioned by their venom, when injected into one's flesh, is very quickly felt, and quite severe, giving the idea of a burning-hot fluid thrown into the system. It does not last long, nor does it swell much, and is not so painful, nor does it produce so much inconvenience as the sting of the honey-bee. In countries where they abound, people do not regard them with much terror. Chickens are very fond of them, and voraciously devour every one they can find.

I once found a mocking-bird (*Mimus polyglottus*) which by some awkward stroke in his rapid flight, had fractured his right wing. It was running on the ground, and had become quite hungry and light. After dressing and securing the little songster's wing, I turned over some old rails in search of something for him to eat. There were plenty of crickets and scorpions concealed under the rails, for the latter of which he showed the greatest preference. He would peck at them, and by bruising and thus stunning them a little, readily swallow them whole. After he had swallowed seven of them, I thought, as I had volunteered my services as surgeon and physician for him, it would not be prudent for me to suffer him to in-

dulge farther at this time; so I placed him in a large cage with some canary birds, where he remained feasting on nine scorpions a day, until he had recovered the use of his wing, when I set him free.

Scorpions are generally found two or three together, sometimes in larger numbers. They shed their skins without a rent, coming out at the mouth, like the snakes. They moult when they are about half-grown, and again when they come to maturity, and I do not know that they ever again cast their skin during the remainder of their life. They live through two winters, as I can testify, and may exist many years. They are not possessed of much intelligence, making no nests or preparation for winter, beyond crawling under rocks and other dry and sheltered places. Their principal cerebral developments are amativeness, alimentiveness, and cautiousness.

A NOTE FROM THE FAR NORTH.

BY J. T. ROTHROCK.

EARLY in the year 1865, the writer of this scrap eagerly embraced an opportunity afforded him of visiting the less known parts of North-western North America. The region travelled over lay between the Coast Range and the Rocky Mountains, and from latitude 50° north to 61° north.

From latitude 56°, as far north as Fort Youkon (a post belonging to the Hudson Bay Company, exact position undetermined), a distance of at least 1,500 miles, the country was, and still is, in part, a *terra incognita*. It is to be hoped that ere long much of the uncertainty hanging over it will have been cleared up. Geographers, it is